

- to yield to a cause
- to fit some prefabricated image
- to concur in the group decision
  - to resist change

	CONFORMING		NOT CONFORMING
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
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7			

**What do these two expressions mean?**

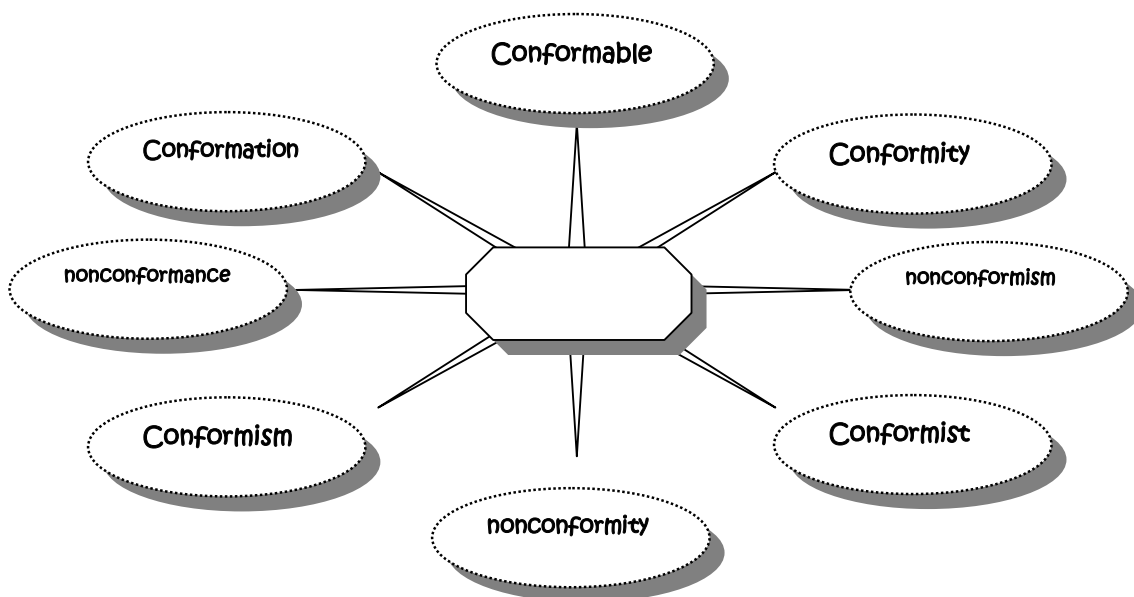
- To endorse an idea
- To be torn between

◆ **Fill in the blanks with the expressions used above:**

- 1) The poor father was at a crossroads, since his three sons had a different perspective on the matter, so he finally came up with an unexpected solution .....
- 2) Who were those innocent defenders of lost causes who ..... that hardworking individuals would ever become successful?
- 3) As a result of their commitment to the search of changes which could bring about a better society, idealistic groups and utopian societies typically ..... conformity.
- 4) He ..... changing his mind and betraying his old family ideals and keeping his eyes wide shut against the evidence.
- 5) Every representative of the member states ..... the decision, except for the controversial sixth amendment about the use of fossil fuels.

◆ **Word formation:** Consider the following words derived from the verb "to

conform” and their corresponding definitions, which have been extracted from well-known dictionaries:



**To conform**

*transitive verb*

to give the same shape, outline, or contour to : bring into harmony or accord <~ furrows to the slope of the land>

*intransitive verb*

**1:** to be similar or identical; *also* to be in agreement or harmony used with *to* or *with* <changes that ~ with our plans>

**2 a:** to be obedient or compliant usually used with *to* <~ to another's wishes> **b:** to act in accordance with prevailing standards or customs <the pressure to ~> (Encyclopaedia Britannica)

**1** to behave in the way that most other people in your group or society behave [↔ conformist]:

the pressure on schoolchildren to conform

**conform to/with**

people who do not conform to traditional standards of behaviour

**2** to obey a law, rule etc

**conform to/with** (Longman dictionary)

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Students can be expelled for refusing to conform to school rules.  
All new buildings must conform with the regional development plan.  
products which conform to international safety standards

**3 conform to a pattern/model/ideal etc**

to be similar to what people expect or think is usual:

*Joseph does not conform to the stereotype of a policeman.*

**Conformist (adjective)**

thinking and behaving like everyone else, because you do not want to be different, or forcing people to do this - often used to show disapproval [↔ nonconformist]:

*a country with a conformist education system*

**Conformable (adjective)**

Acting in agreement; suitable

**Conformation (noun)**

[C;U]: the way something is formed; shape.

**Conformity (noun)**

[U (**with, to**): agreement with established rules, customs etc.

**Conformism (noun)**

the act or practice of conforming, as to social convention, religious orthodoxy, or established political belief

**nonconformance, nonconformism, nonconformity (noun)**

a lack of orthodoxy in thoughts or beliefs

◆ Read the following passages from the article "Conformity: Ten Timeless Influencers" and fill in the blanks with words related to conformity:

.....(1) is such a strong influence in society that it's impossible to understand human behaviour without it. Psychological experiments show that people will deny the evidence of their own eyes in order ..... (2) with other people.

People use ..... (3) to ingratiate themselves with others. .... (4) also makes people feel better about themselves by bolstering self-confidence. Some people have a greater need for liking from others so are more likely .....(5)

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